

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A surgical dissector for dissecting tissue comprising:

a) a shaft defining a longitudinal axis;

b) a distal tissue dissecting surface carried by the shaft for dissecting tissue, the distal surface articulatable relative to the longitudinal axis, the articulatable distal surface movable between a first position relative to the longitudinal axis to a second position relative to the longitudinal axis; and

c) a position indicator associated with the shaft and movable with the dissecting surface to indicate the position of the dissecting surface.

26. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 wherein the position indicator comprises a light source carried by the shaft and disposed to indicate the position of the articulatable distal tissue dissecting surface.

27. (New) The surgical dissector of claim 25, wherein the shaft includes one or more articulation joints carried by the shaft to permit the distal end portion to move relative to the more proximal portion of the shaft.

28. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 further comprising an articulation mechanism operatively associated with the articulatable distal dissecting surface, wherein actuation of the articulation mechanism articulates the articulatable distal tip between the first position and the second position.

29. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 27 wherein the articulation mechanism further comprises a rotatable member operably coupled to the articulatable distal surface, wherein when the rotatable member rotates, the articulatable distal surface articulates.

30. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 27 wherein the articulation mechanism further comprises a coupling member operably coupled to the articulatable distal surface, wherein actuation of the articulation mechanism axially moves the coupling member and articulates the articulatable distal surface.
31. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 26 wherein at least a portion of the light is disposed to contact and dissect tissue.
32. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 26 wherein the light is emitted from an LED or a light transmission pipe.
33. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 wherein at least a portion of the shaft is flexible.
34. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 further comprising an attachment feature about the distal surface for the attachment of a guide therein.
35. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 34 wherein the attachment feature comprises an aperture for the reception of the guide therein.
36. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 wherein the articulatable distal surface is attached to the shaft by at least one pivot.
37. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 26 wherein the light source has a luminous intensity between about 20 lux and about 50,000 lux.
38. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 26 wherein the light is carried at a distal tip of the shaft and has at least one arcuate surface.
39. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 wherein the distal surface can articulate through an angle of up to about 170 degrees.
40. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 25 wherein the articulatable distal surface can articulate positively and negatively relative to the longitudinal axis.
41. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 35 wherein the guide fits over the attachment feature.
42. (New) The surgical dissector as described in claim 38 wherein the distal tip is clear.